

Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SAM-01 SY-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

/110 W

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R 151721Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0457

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS EEC GW

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECLARATION ON TERRORISM

REFS: (A) BONN 11684; (B) BONN 11205 NOTAL;

(C) USEC 6908 NOTAL

SUMMARY. SUBJECT DECLARATION, WHICH WAS DRAFTED AT
FRG INITIATIVE, IS AS FAR AS THE FRG COULD PUSH THE
REST OF THE EC TO GO ON TERRORISM. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND
INFORMATION CONCERNING DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL
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TERRORISM ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

(TEXT TRANSMITTED REFTEL C).

2. DECLARATION DRAFTED AT FRG INITIATIVE. FRG TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ATMOSPHERE FOLLOWING ENTEBBE TO PRESS ITS CAMPAIGN FOR EC ACTION ON TERRORISM.

3. THE ABSENCE OF REAL TEETH IN THE EC DECLARATION WAS CAUSED ON THE ONE HAND BY DISAGREEMENT OVER WHAT TO DO ABOUT A CONVENTION ON TERRORISM DRAFTED BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND, ON THE OTHER, CONTINUING HESITANCY ON THE PART OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE NINE TO GET INVOLVED IN AN EFFORT AT THE UN.

4. THE CENTRAL POINT IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S DRAFT IS PROVISION FOR REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF CRIMES CONSIDERED TO BE POLITICAL CRIMES, AND A CORRESPONDING COMMITMENT TO PROSECUTE OR EXTRADITE TERRORISTS WHOSE OFFENSES ARE NO LONGER CONSIDERED POLITICAL. THIS DRAFT ENJOYS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT, BUT ONE EC MEMBER -- IRELAND -- HAS ABSTAINED ON IT AND ANOTHER -- FRANCE -- HAS VETOED IT ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS. THE FRENCH OBJECT BECAUSE THE DRAFT IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH. THEY HAVE TOLD THE GERMANS THAT THEY WANT A MORE STRINGENT CONVENTION, WHICH IS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE ONLY IN A SMALLER GROUP (THE EC). THE FRG WANTS BOTH CONVENTIONS AND CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR BOTH.

5. THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE EC DECLARATION -- THE EC STATES "SHALL ENSURE THAT AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE COOPERATE" IN PROSECUTING OR EXTRADITING PERSONS WHO TAKE HOSTAGES -- WAS AS FAR AS THE FRG COULD GET THE OTHERS TO GO IN INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACTION OUTSIDE OF THE EC -- IN SUCH PLACES AS THE UN.

6. ACCORDING TO THE FONOFF, THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP FROM INTERIOR MINISTRIES WHICH WAS AGREED ON JUNE 29 (REFTEL B) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

7. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ACKNOWLEDGED IN A TV INTERVIEW
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FOLLOWING THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING THAT THE EC DECLARATION IS A DECLARATION OF INTENTION AND IS NOT BINDING. THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED JULY 14 THAT SCHMIDT WOULD CALL A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE BUNDESTAG AFTER HE RETURNS FROM THE US TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM QUESTIONS.

8. COMMENT: THE DAMAGE THAT THE TERRORISM ISSUE CAN

DO TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS WAS
VERY APPARENT TO SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER DURING THE
ENTEBBE INCIDENT AND THE SUBSEQUENT ESCAPE FROM A
BERLIN JAIL OF FOUR WOMEN TERRORISTS. FOR THIS
REASON, AS WELL AS FOR GENUINE CONCERN OVER THE
TERRORIST THREAT, WE CAN EXPECT THE FRG TO CONTINUE TO
PRESS FOR ACTION WITHIN THE EC AND ELSEWHERE
CASH

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04 MAY 2006

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